

## THE GREAT TOBACCO TRADE; WHICH THE FAIRS TOLD US; LESSONS LEFT BY THE WAY

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## LESSONS TAUGHT BY WAR POTASH FOUND AT HOME

Wood Ashes, Usually Thrown Away,  
Have a Value for Every  
Farmer.

THOUGHTS ON HOMELY SUBJECT  
Experts Tell How Virginia Farmers  
May Find Much of Needed Potash  
on Their Own Premises—Save  
Wood Ashes.

While wars, even at a distance are full of horrors the world over and bring industrial and financial troubles to innocent bystanders, thousands of miles away, they may also bring some blessings in the way of valuable lessons and the like.

A circular from the Agricultural Department of the United States, just issued, is of great interest to Virginia farmers. If the European war should cause our large annual imports of potash to dwindle, many farmers will look to wood ashes, among other substances, to replenish the potash supply. While the amount of wood ashes that a farmer could accumulate on his own farm would hardly ever be sufficient to supply his need for potash, nevertheless, if they are carefully stored and not permitted to leach, they may be of considerable value to him. Wood ashes are now a factor in Canada, being considered a regular commercial commodity. In some of the lumber mills and other plants using wood or sawdust for fuel in this country which at present make no use of the ashes from their furnaces or waste piles, may find it profitable to store and sell them if the demand warrant it.

According to this governmental circular, wood ashes may be profitably applied as a top dressing to grass land and to pastures where they will encourage the growth of clover and better kinds of grasses, which will then crowd out inferior kinds and weeds. Wood ashes may be also used for corn and roots. Because of their lime content they are not so good for potatoes, although sometimes used for this crop.

### OLD-TIME WORK-OUT SOILS GREATLY HELPED

In New England, where farmers have had to look more carefully to the replenishing of the old soils than in some of the newer sections of the country, wood ashes have long been appreciated. Ashes indirectly increase the available nitrogen of the organic matter in the soil, and have been found to be an excellent service in Europe on drained peatland.

Besides the potash, ashes contain other ingredients which are of value to plants, namely, about 1 or 2 percent of phosphoric acid, a little magnesia and a great deal of lime. The importance of these last-named elements is made plain by the esteem in which leached ashes are held by some of our farmers, although from leached ashes all but a very small portion of the potash has been washed out. The farmer who wishes to restore potash to the soil by the use of ashes should take great care that they are kept dry and are not allowed to leach at all. Many housewives save their household ashes and leach the potash for use in making soap. They may now have an additional reason for conserving them, namely, their increased value as a garden fertilizer. But, has just been said, ashes to be used for the improvement of the soil should not be permitted to leach.

Ashes from hardwoods (deciduous trees) are richer in both phosphorus and potash than those from pines and softwoods (conifers). Ashes from oak, elm, maple and hickory have more potash than those from pine. The ashes of twigs (sawdust) for example, are worth more for agricultural purposes than the ashes of heartwood taken from the middle of an old tree. In general, the smaller and younger the wood burned, the better the ashes. The best ashes are those which contain enough potash to make them valuable in this connection.

Ordinary house ashes contain on the average about 3 or 4 percent of potash and 2 percent of phosphoric acid. In the case of the ashes of heartwood, there is enough potash and phosphoric acid in a bushel of ashes to make it worth 20 or 25 cents. Besides that, some 10 or 15 cents additional might be allowed for the "alkali power" of the ashes. This power is that which enables ashes to rot weeds and to ferment peat. Of course, prices vary with local conditions.

### ROANOKE ACTIVITIES

Chamber of Commerce Has Some Good Reports to Make—Things That Boom.

ROANOKE, VA., October 31.—John Wood, the wide-awake secretary of the very wide-awake Roanoke Chamber of Commerce, is planning for an ambitious year this year. "This movement grows out of a recognition of our great need for an auditorium, convention and exposition hall. While it is proposed to organize a stock company, the underlying idea is to carry a popular subscription. Definite plans have not been drawn, and will not be until the financial situation has been worked out. It is the purpose of the Chamber to proceed on one of two plans: either to build a new hall, or to purchase an existing one."

### BIG HARDWARE PLANT

A Project That May Mean a Good Deal for Carolina Development.

SALISBURY, N. C., October 31.—A number of hardware companies in Salisbury, N. C., are planning to build a big hardware plant in Salisbury, N. C., which will be the largest of its kind in the South. The plant will be built on a 100-acre tract in Salisbury, N. C., and will be owned and operated by the Salisbury Hardware Company. The plant will be built in Salisbury, N. C., and will be owned and operated by the Salisbury Hardware Company. The plant will be built in Salisbury, N. C., and will be owned and operated by the Salisbury Hardware Company.

## THINGS WORTH SEEING IN VIRGINIA



Peanut Picking in Sussex Co.



Parcel Post Exhibit at State Fair.



Virginia Haymakers Show Off.

### Gloucester County Show Down

Views and Near Views:  
Hints and Suggestions

BY FRANK S. WOODSON,  
Industrial Editor.

This column is open to contributors who have something to say of a suggestive nature, and who are willing to make hints and suggestions looking to the better development of the good old State of Virginia. West Virginia and North Carolina, and who can hold their suggestions down to a minimum of 150 to 200 words. Such communications, addressed to the Industrial Editor, will receive prompt attention.

### Cutting Out Cotton

Until this year there was only one kind of cutting-out cotton. That meant to chop the surplus plant out of the row so as to insure a larger growth under normal conditions to the remaining ones. This year cutting-out cotton means to plant none at all. That is what the penitentiary authorities in North Carolina have decided to do on their State farm in the Roanoke River valley. This plantation usually makes from 1,500 to 2,000 bales of cotton. This year they are cutting out the cotton. The other crops include peanuts, tobacco and corn. For all of these there is an excellent market. Halifax County is reported as reducing its cotton acreage by 50 percent. South Carolina has already passed a law looking to the same end. The governors of seven States at Memphis the other day were convinced of the practicability of reduction by voluntary effort or by State authority.

### Potash in Cotton Seed

It is true that the cotton seed is directly concerned but very small part of Virginia, and considerably less than half of North Carolina, but indirectly it does concern pretty much all of the two States. Therefore, this, from a government circular, may be suggested: The hulls of cotton seed, according to specialists, yield ashes which contain from 15 to 30 percent of potash and from 5 to 10 percent of phosphoric acid. Cotton hull ashes, therefore, as a fertilizer are much more concentrated than ordinary wood ashes. As a matter of fact, in the opinion of some investigators, the ashes from cottonseed hulls contain such a large proportion of potash that they might do considerable harm to crops if they were used in large quantities.

### Now Is the Time to Advertise

"All over the South, as well as throughout the country generally," says the Manufacturers' Record, "there are industries running full time to take care of orders growing out of the war. There were nearly 250,000 more spindles at work in the South in September, 1914, than in September of last year, the figures being, according to the United States Department of Commerce, 12,357,000 for this year as against 12,000,000 for September, 1913. Some cotton mills, woolen mills, steel mills and others are busy with various products required for the use of the war, and many of them are busy with various products required for the use of the war, and many of them are busy with various products required for the use of the war."

## NORTH CAROLINA LEADS DOES NOT FULLY PAN OUT

An Interesting Discussion as to Why  
These Things Are  
Really So.

CHAPEL HILL, October 31.—Is North Carolina's capacity to retain wealth commensurate with its wealth-producing power? Does the wealth-producing stick to the palm that sweat it out? This engaging topic was discussed by the North Carolina Club at its recent meeting, Fred R. Yoder, of Catawba County, leading the discussion.

Figures carefully compiled, indicated that North Carolina produced a greater crop wealth per acre in 1913 than Iowa, Illinois, or McLean County, Ill., one of the eight banner agricultural counties in the United States. North Carolina, per capita wealth was \$24 per acre over against \$17 in the State of Iowa. This wealth does not stick to the palm that sweat it out—the bulk of the yearly farm wealth seems to disappear as if by evaporation, scattering to the far ends of the earth. The inability of North Carolina cotton farmers, in the many years of fat to lay up a sufficient store of wealth to tide themselves over a depressed business period brought on by the limited demand for cotton, conclusively proves that the State's wealth-retaining power is not commensurate with its wealth-producing power. The reason is apparent: excessive farm tenancy and its associated conditions of the one-crop, supply merchant farm civilization. This prevailing condition in the face of any concerted effort for the diversification of crops and the development of live stock industries. The natural consequence is a deficiency of home-raised foods and foodstuffs. The wealth-retaining power of the State of Kansas—the only State in the Union absolutely free from debt—was contrasted with that of North Carolina. Kansas is a self-sufficing, home-raising State. The single farm wealth of Kansas is \$2,000 over against \$22 in North Carolina. The dairy products of Kansas are valued at \$5,549,129; dairy products of North Carolina, \$1,757,245; Kansas poultry, \$1,422,832; North Carolina poultry, \$3,335,812; Kansas feedable crops, \$7,269,308; Kansas feedable crops, \$2,211,128; North Carolina feedable crops, \$2,041,782. The two types of farming are illustrated distinctly in this State. Scotland County represents the one-crop, farm tenancy, supply merchant system; Alleghany County represents the many-crop, live stock, own-crop system. The food produced per capita in Alleghany County is \$106; in Scotland the per capita production of food is \$42.

The North Carolina Club has built a reputation for itself as a body of live topics for the year's program. The subjects are calculated to arouse the students of the university to a proper appreciation of North Carolina problems and thus further link up the State university with the soil. The topics are: "The Increasing Meat Supply of North Carolina and the Increasing Cost of Living"; "Local Packing and Refrigeration"; "Are Farm Land Bearing an Unreasonable Share of the Tax Burden?" debate query—"A State-Wide Dog Tax for Schools?" "The Farmer's Share of the Consumer's Dollar"; debate query—"Resolved, That Home and Farm Ownership Is Beneficial to the Negro and the Community in Which He Lives?" "New Zealand's Graduated Land Tax."

### Reynolds Company's Enlargement

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C., October 31.—The R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, which already operates acres of buildings in Winston-Salem, has made arrangements for the erection of a modern steel building on East Fourth Street, between the streets of the city and the city. The building will be only one story in height, it will cover about one and a half acres of ground, and will be located between Ridge and Highland Avenues. It will be used for the storage of leaf tobacco—weed purchased and now in storage on Virginia and Kentucky markets.

### WEST VIRGINIA ROAD SCHOOLS

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